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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography includes books that were written to help children cope with death, divorce, and various physical and mental handicaps. The grade levels for which each book is appropriate are also provided. (Author/MP)

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Cindy Gamm
January 1981

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Bibliotherapy is the use of reading material to help solve problems and to promote mental health. If children who are experiencing difficulties can read about others who have solved similar problems, they may see alternatives for themselves.

This bibliography includes books that were written to help children cope with death, divorce, and various physical and mental handicaps.

The letters and numbers in parenthesis indicate appropriate grade levels.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Books on Death

1. Abbott, Sarah. The Old Dog. Illus. by George Mocniak. 1972, Coward, McCann, and Geoghegan.

   The story of a boy's first encounter with death and of his love for an old dog who will no longer be there to share his life.

2. Anders, Rebecca. A Look At Death. (2-4) Photographs by Maria S. Forrai. 1978. Lerner.

   The concept of death, the importance of grief, and the customs of mourning.

3. Bartoli, Jennifer. Nonna. (1-2). Illus. by Joan E. Drescher. 1975, Harvey House.

   Taking a positive approach, this story shows the natural reactions to death handled with understanding and warmth.

4. Bernstein, Joanne and Gullo, Stephen. When People Die. (K-6). Photographs by Rosmarie Hausher. 1977, Dutton.

   This book explains in simple terms the reasons for death, theories on after-life, burial practices, grief, and the naturalness in the chain of life.

5. Borack, Barbara. Someone Small. (PS- 2). Illus. by Anita Lobel. 1969, Harper.

   A young girl's gradual acceptance of her new sister and love for her pet. When the pet dies, the two sisters are able to deal with their sorrow together.

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

6. Brown, Margaret Wise. The Dead Bird. (1-2). Illus. by Remy Charlip. 1958, Addison-Wesley.

A group of children plan and carry out a funeral after finding a dead bird in the woods.

7. Buckley, Helen. Grandfather and I. (PS-2). Illus. by Paul Galdone. 1959, Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard.

The relationship between a small boy and his grandfather.

8. Carrick. Carol. The Accident. (K-3). Illus. by Donald Carrick. 1976, Seabury.

A small boy is forced to deal with the accidental death of his pet dog.

9. Corley, Elizabeth. Tell Me About Death, Tell Me About Funerals. (2-3). Illus. by Philip Pecoraro. 1973, Grammatical Sciences.

10. Cornish, Sam. Grandmother's Pictures. (2-3). Illus. by Jeanne Johns. 1974, Bradbury.

Young Sam finds out about his dead parents through pictures in his grandmother's scrapbook.

11. Coutant, Helen. First Snow. (1-3). Illus. by Vo-Dinh. 1974, Knopf.

Six-year-old Lien discovers the meaning of death through nature.

12. DePaola, Tomie. Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs. (PS-K). Illus. by author. 1973, Putnam.

The love of a child for his grandmother and Tommy's adjustment to her death are told in tender, comfortable terms.

13. Dobrin, Arnold. Scat. (1-2). Illus. by the author. 1971, Four Winds Press.

Scat learns many valuable lessons from his grandmother. When she dies, he thinks of his own special way to say goodbye.

14. Fassler, Joan. My Grandpa Died Today. (PS-2). Illus. by Stuart Kranz. 1971, Behavioral Publications.

David's grandpa talks with David about death. When the grandpa dies, David is able to remember the words of his grandpa and accept his death.

15. Greene, Constance. Beat The Turtle Drum. (4-6). Illus. by Donna Diamond.

A girl must adjust to the accidental death of her beloved younger sister.

16. Grollman, Earl A. Talking About Death: A Dialogue Between Parent and Child. (K-2). 1970, Beacon.

17. Harris, Audrey. Why Did He Die? (PS-2). Illus. by Susan Sallade Dalke. 1965, Lerner.

The story, written in verse, provides answers to questions children ask when faced with death.

18. Kantrowitz, Mildred. When Violet Died. (2). Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. 1973, Parents Magazine Press.

19. Kennedy, Richard. Come Again In Spring. (3-4). Illus. by Marcia Sewall. 1976, Harper.

An old man tries to outsmart Death with help of the birds who come to his cabin.

20. Koch, Ron. Goodbye Grandpa. (3-5). Illus. by Don Wallerstedt. 1975, Augsburg.

Joey tries to run away from death, then faces it and gains new understanding of life.

21. Lee, Virginia. The Magic Moth. (2-5). Illus. by Richard Cuffari. 1972, Seabury.

A family experiences the trauma of losing a child. Through love, they learn to accept the death of their youngest member.

22. Lundgren, Max. Matt's Grandfather. (2-3). Illus. by Fibben Hald. Translated by Ann Pyk. 1970, Putnam.

A story of mutual warmth and respect between childhood and old age.

23. Miles, Miska. Annie and the Old One. (3-4). Illus. by Peter Parnell. 1971, Little.

A young Navajo girl copes with her grandmother's death by learning about the ways of nature and life.

24. Slote, Alfred. Hang Tough, Paul Mather. (4-6). 1973, Lippincott.

Paul's doctor helps him to understand his fear of death and to accept the limitations imposed by his illness.

25. Smith, Doris Buchanan. A Taste of Blackberries. (3-6). Illus. by Charles Robinson. 1973, Crowell.

A boy struggles to overcome his feelings of shock, denial, anger, and guilt when his best friend dies.

26. Sonneborn, Ruth A. I Love Gram. (PS-2). Illus. by Leo Carty. 1971, Viking.

A little girl fears that her grandmother will die when Gram gets sick and goes to the hospital.

27. Stein, Sara Bonnett. About Dying: An Open Family Book for Parents and Children. (PS-3). Photographs by Dick Frank. 1974, Walker.

Gentle introduction to death. Through reactions of a mother and her children, the story describes common responses to the death of loved ones.

28. Stevens, Carla. Stories From A Snowy Meadow. (1-2). Illus. by Eve Rice. 1976, Seabury.

The themes of friendship, love, and loss are dealt with through the eyes of four animal characters.

29. Viorst, Judith. The Tenth Good Thing About Barney. (K-2). Illus. by Erik Blegvad. 1971, Atheneum.

A young boy learns to cope with and accept the death of his pet cat Barney.

30. Warburg, Sandol Stoddard. Growing Time. (1-3). Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. 1969, Houghton Mifflin.

Young Jamie has some difficulty accepting his pet dogs death.

31. Zolotow, Charlotte. My Grandson Lew. (K-2). Illus. by William Pene Du Bois. 1974, Harper.

Lewis and his mother share their memories of Grandpa and the love he brought to their family.

Books on Divorce

1. Adams, Florence. Mushy Eggs. (1-2). Illus. by Marilyn Hirsh. 1973, Putnam.

Two young boys experience the sadness of having someone they love leave them for a new life.

2. Berger, Terry. A Friend Can Help. (PS-2). Photographs by Heinz Kluetmeier. 1974, Raintree.

A young girl, whose parents had recently divorced, finds comfort in the understanding words of her best friend.

3. Berger, Terry. How Does It Feel When Your Parents Get Divorced? Photographs by Miriam Shapiro. 1977, Messner.

The problems and emotions young people experience when parents divorce, the family separates, and lifestyles change.

4. Cains, Jeanette. Daddy. (K-2). Illus. by Ronald Himler. 1977, Harper.

Young Windy describes the special activities she shares with her father on Saturdays.

5. Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Year. (2-4). Illus. by Ann Grifalconi. 1974, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

The life of a young black boy is told through a series of twelve poems, one for each month.

6. Ewing, Kathryn. A Private Matter. (4-5). Illus. by Joan Sandin 1975, Harcourt.

Although Marcy has accepted her parent's divorce, she finds that she longs for a father figure in her life.

7. Gardner, Richard. The Boys and Girls Book About Divorce. (2-6). Illus. by Alfred Lowenheim. 1970, Aronson.

Dr. Gardner, a child psychiatrist, candidly discusses the problems youngsters encounter when their parents are divorced.

8. Glass, Stuart. A Divorce Dictionary. (3-6). Illus. by Bari Weissman. 1980, Little, Brown and Co.

Alphabetically arranged by definitions and discussions of a number of terms relating to divorce.

9. Goff, Beth. Where Is Daddy? The Story of a Divorce. (PS-3). Illus. by Susan Perl. 1969, Beacon.

Three-year-old Janey goes through a period of grief, confusion, and lonliness after her parents get a divorce.

10. Grollman, Earl. Talking About Divorce: A Dialogue Between Parent and Child. (K-2). 1975, Beacon.

11. Lexau, Joan M. Emily and the Klunky Baby and the Next-Door Dog. (1-3). Illus. by Martha Alexander. 1972, Dial.

Young Emily experiences feelings of rejection from her divorced parents.

12. Lexau, Joan M. Me Day. (2-3). Illus. by Robert Weaver. 1971, Dial.

This story, written in Black English, gives the reader insight about a child's reaction to divorce. It also shows how delicate the celebration of a special day can be in a broken home.

13. Mann, Peggy. My Dad Lives in a Downtown Hotel. (3-5). Illus. by Richard Cuffari. 1973, Doubleday.

Joey feels that he is the reason for his parent's divorce. When he discovers that he is not the only child whose father is not living at home, he begins to adjust to his situation.

14. Mayle, Peter. Divorce Can Happen to the Nicest People. (2-4). Illus. by Arthur Robins. 1979, Macmillan.

Unique, illustrated handbook written especially for children.

15. Ness, Evaline. Sam, Bangs and Moonshine. (2-3). Illus. by the author. 1966, Holt.

Sam, who has no mother, lies to make her best friend believe that she does.

16. Newfield, Marcia. A Book for Jodan. (3-4). Illus. by Diane de Groat. 1975, Atheneum.

Nine-year-old Jodan must learn to accept her parent's separation and also realize that both parents still love her very much.

17. Perry, Patricia and Lynch, Marietta. Mommy and Daddy Are Divorced. (K-3). 1978, Dial.

Two young boys try to understand and cope with the confusion and pain of their parent's divorce.

18. Peterson Jeanne Whitehouse. That Is That.(1-2). Illus. by Deborah Ray, 1979, Harper.

Young Emma must face the fact that her father has moved out of the house permanently.

19. Pursell, Margaret Sanford. A Look At Divorce. Photographs by Maria Forra:. 1976, Lerner.

Problems faced by the parents and children when a divorce occurs.

20. Roy, Ron. Breakfast With My Father. (1-3). Pictures by Troy Howell. 1980, Houghton Mifflin.

After his parents separate, David learns that he will have to spend time alone with each parent.

21. Schuchman, Joan. Two Places To Sleep. (K-3). Illus. by Jim LaMarche. 1979, Carolrhodra.

David describes living with his father and visiting his mother on weekends.

22. Simon, Norma. All Kinds Of Families. (1-2). Illus by Joe Lasker. 1976, Whitman.

This story explains what a family is and how families vary in make-up and lifestyles.

23. Stanek, Muriel. I Won't Go Without a Father.(2-4). Illus. by Eleanor Mill. 1972, Whitman.

Steve is envious of children who have fathers and pities himself for being fatherless.

24. Steptoe, John. My Special Best Words.(K-3). Illus. by the author. 1974, Viking.

A young black girl tells of life living with her father and younger brother.

25. Thomas Ianthe. Eliza's Daddy. (2-3). Illus. by Moneta Barnett. 1976, Harcourt.

A young girl, whose parents are divorced, worries about her father's new family until the day she gets the chance to meet them.

26. Van Leeuwen, Jean. Too Hot for Ice Cream. (1-3). Illus. by Martha Alexander. 1974, Dial.

A young girl, feeling neglected by her separated parents, decides to take her younger sister on an outing by herself.

27. White, Ann S. Divorce. (3-6). Graphics by Ginger Giles. 1979, Watts.

The causes and procedures of divorce, the changes it brings to family life, and its effects on children.

28. Zolotow, Charlotte. A Father Like That. (1-2). Illus by Ben Shecter. 1971, Harper.

The story of a small boy who tries to imagine what his father would be like.

Books on Handicaps

1. Fassler, Joan. Howie Helps Himself. (1-3). Illus. by Joe Lasker. 1975, Whitman.

Though he enjoys life with his family and attends school, Howie, a child with cerebral palsy, wants more than anything else to be able to move his wheelchair by himself.

2. Fassler, Joan. One Little Girl. (K-3). Illus. by M. Jane Smyth. 1969, Behavioral Publications.

A book to provide mentally retarded children an understanding of themselves and how they can relate positively to their environment.

3. Goldfeder, Cheryl and Goldfeder Jim. The Girl Who Wouldn't Talk. Illus. by Cheryl Goldfeder. 1973, National Assoc. of the Deaf.

The story of a deaf girl named Robin and the problems she faces while growing up in a world where everybody talks.

4. Heide, Florence Parry. Sound of Sunshine, Sound of Rain. (3-4). Illus. by Kenneth Longtemps. 1970, Parents Magazine.

A blind black boy describes the world around him, as he experiences it.

5. Hirsch, Karen. My Sister. (1-3). Illus. by Nancy Inderieden. 1977, Carolhoda.

A young girl tells about her retarded sister.

6. Hunter, Edith Fisher. Child of the Silent Night. (4-5). Illus. by Bea Holms. 1963, Houghton Mifflin.

The biography of Laura Bridgman. It demonstrates that a person can learn and achieve despite handicaps.

7. Klein, Gerda. The Blue Rose. (2-3). Photographs by Norma Holt. 1974, Hill.

This book makes the retarded child more understandable to parents, teachers, and most important of all, to other children.

8. Larsen, Hanne. Don't Forget Tom. (1-3). Photographs by Creative Circle. 1974, Tindal Press.

The simple explanation and description of a retarded boy thrpugh the eyes of a neighbor child.

9. Lasker, Joe. He's My Brother. (2-4). Illus. by the author. 1974, Whitman.

Family attitudes and their wonderful treatment of their retarded family member, Jamie, is told by his older brother.

10. Levine, Edna S. Lisa and Her Soundless World. (2-4). Illus. by Gloria Kamen. 1974, Behavioral Publications.

The challenges faced by a child who is hard of hearing.

11. Litchfield, Ada. A Button In Her Ear. (K-3). Illus. by Eleanor Mill. 1976, Whitman.

A girl explains how her hearing deficiency was detected and corrected with the use of a hearing aid.

12. Ominsky, Elaine. Jon O. (K-3). Photographs by Dennis Simonetti. 1977, Prentice-Hall.

The life of a boy with Down's Syndrome who has adjusted to being a very special child.

13. Parker, Richard. He Is Your Brother. (4-6). 1974, Nelson.

A boy begins to understand and take an interest in his younger, mentally retarded brother.

14. Peter, Diana. Claire and Emma. (2-3). Photographs by Jeremy Finlay. 1976, Day.

Introduction of two deaf sisters who are learning to lip-read and speak.

15. Peterson, Jeanne Whitehouse. I Have a Sister, My Sister Is Deaf. (1-2). Harper.

This book gives children and understanding of the fact that deaf children can be alert, intelligent, and sensitive.

16. Petersen, Palle. Sally Can't See. (2-3). 1974, Day.
The life of a twelve-year-old blind girl who is learning to read, swim, and ride a horse.

17. Sobol, Harriet Langsam. My Brother Steven Is Retarded. (1-4). Photographs by Patricia Agre. 1977, Macmillan.

Eleven-year-old Beth explains what it is like to be part of a family where one person is retarded.

18. Stein, Sara Bonnett. About Handicaps: An Open Book for Parents and Children Together. (PS-4). Photographs by Dick Frank. 1974, Walker.

This unique presentation creates a shared experiencd for adult and child by exploring the relationship between two children, one of whom is handicapped.

19. Thomas, Dawn C. Pablito's New Feet. (3-4). Illus. by Paul Frame. 1973, Lippincott.

Although he is confined to a wheelchair as a result of polio, seven-year- old Pablito dreams of playing baseball.

20. Thomas, William. The New Boy Is Blind. (3). 1980, Messner.
When a blind boy enters a new school both he and his sighted classmates must adjust to each other.

21. Vance, Marguerite Schlund. Windows For Rosemary. (3-4). Illus. by Robert Doares. 1956, Dutton.

Eight-year-old Rosemary is well adjusted to her handicap and has few difficulties with it. Good description of the Braille alphabet.

23. Wolf, Bernard. Anna's Silent World. (K-3). 1977, Lippincott.
Six-year-old Anna was born deaf. Though her hearing loss is profound, Anna has learned to speak and to understand people around her.

24. Wolf, Bernard. Connie's New Eyes. (3-4). Photographs by the author. 1976, Lippincott.

The story of a blind girl and her guide dog, Blythe.

25. Wolf, Bernard. Don't Feel Sorry For Paul. (3-4). Photographs by the author. 1974, Lippincott.

Two weeks in the life of a handicapped boy learning to live successfully in a world made for people without handicaps.